

Where I once could name a dozen record stores in Philly without even thinking about it, today the number has greatly diminished. The future of the independent music store is hazy at best. In terms of new releases, the smaller stores simply cannot compete against the mass market discount super stores. At the same time those stores are not going to carry the smaller independent labels who along with Tower's employees may end up being the biggest victims of its demise. For those of us who like rummaging through music stores for the pure thrill of discovery and looking something over before deciding whether to buy it, in the end, it's just one less place to shop that never lived up to its reputation or its promise.